flight in 1991. Two operational flights are nominally projected for 1993 and 1995. The first GSLV developmental launch capable of placing 2.0 tonne INSAT-II class payload in Geo-synchronous transfer orbit is nominally planned for launch in 1992-93. Mission studies are in progress to arrive at a baseline vehicle configuration for GSLV. The technology elements and the choice of options for the cryogenic engine and stage have been studied in detail by the study team constituted for this perpose. The critical technology elements including the long-lead items requiring advance actions are being identified.

Financial Assistance to States

1305. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central financial assistance to the States for their annual plans has relatively gone down in 1986-87 i comparison to that; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) No, Sir. Summary position is given below:—

(Rs. crores)

	1985-86 (Released)	1986-87 (Budget Estimate)
1. Normal Central assistance including assistance for externally aided projects	5473	5809
2. Special Central assistance for hill areas	167	189
3. Special Central assistance for tribal sub-plan	140	155
4. Special Central assistance for border area	..	40
5. Special Central assistance for North Eastern Council	104 (Revised Estimates)	125
TOTAL	5884	6318

It would thus be seen that the budget estimates of Central Assistance for the States' Annual Plan for 1986-87 is higher by Rs 434 crores than the amount actually released in 1985-86.

(b) Does not arise.

Appointments to candidates Selected in Assistants' Grade Examination

1306. SHRI SAT PAUL MITTAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Assistants' Grade examination was held by the Union Public service in September|October 1984 and its results declared in July 1985;

(b) whether it is also a fact that appointment letters have not yet been issued to individuals delared successful in that examination; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) be in the affirmative, what are the reasons for delay, and when are the appointment letters likely to be issued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.